

Senate Resolution 367

By: Senators Beach of the 21st, Cowser of the 46th, Jones of the 25th, Miller of the 49th and Mullis of the 53rd

A RESOLUTION

1 To create the Senate Gaming and Pari-mutuel Wagering on Horse Racing and Growing
2 Georgia's Equine Industry Study Committee; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia has a large agricultural industry that contributes
4 significantly to the economy of this state and a portion of that industry is involved with the
5 breeding, raising, and training of horses; and

6 WHEREAS, the legalization of horse racing and pari-mutuel betting in this state would aid
7 in the further development and expansion of Georgia's horse breeding and raising industry
8 and foster its contribution to the economy of this state; and

9 WHEREAS, the legalization of horse racing and pari-mutuel betting would also increase tax
10 revenues for Georgia and aid in meeting the budgetary demands of government; and

11 WHEREAS, in addition, many of our citizens travel substantial distances to engage in casino
12 gaming and enjoy in the resort atmosphere in states such as Nevada, Mississippi, North
13 Carolina, and New Jersey; and

14 WHEREAS, if casino gaming was legal in this state, the money spent in other states might
15 remain with the industries and tax revenues of this state; and

16 WHEREAS, the financial implications for the state of such legalization to improve Georgia's
17 economy deserves to be further considered and studied.

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE:

19 (1) **Creation of study committee.** There is created the Senate Gaming and Pari-mutuel
20 Wagering on Horse Racing and Growing Georgia's Equine Industry Study Committee.

21 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of 11 members. The
22 members of the committee shall be the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, the Majority

23 Leader of the Senate, the Majority Whip of the Senate, the Majority Caucus Chairperson
24 of the Senate, the chairman of the Senate Economic Development and Tourism
25 Committee, the chairman of the Senate Regulated Industries and Utilities Committee, the
26 chief executive officer of the Georgia Lottery Corporation or his or her designee, and four
27 members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate, one of whom shall be
28 designated by the President of the Senate to serve as chairperson of the committee.

29 (3) **Powers and duties.** The committee shall undertake a study of the conditions, needs,
30 issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any action or
31 legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate.

32 (4) **Meetings.** The chairperson shall call all meetings of the committee. The committee
33 may conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or
34 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
35 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution.

36 (5) **Allowances, expenses, and funding.**

37 (A) The legislative members of the committee shall receive the allowances provided
38 for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated.

39 (B) Members of the committee who are state officials, other than legislative members,
40 or who are state employees shall receive no compensation for their services on the
41 committee, but they may be reimbursed for expenses incurred by them in the
42 performance of their duties as members of the committee in the same manner as they
43 are reimbursed for expenses in their capacities as state officials or employees.

44 (C) The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any member
45 of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized. Funds
46 necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds
47 appropriated to the Senate.

48 (6) **Report.**

49 (A) In the event the committee adopts any specific findings or recommendations that
50 include suggestions for proposed legislation, the chairperson shall file a report of the
51 same prior to the date of abolishment specified in this resolution, subject to
52 subparagraph (C) of this paragraph.

53 (B) In the event the committee adopts a report that does not include suggestions for
54 proposed legislation, the chairperson shall file the report, subject to subparagraph (C)
55 of this paragraph.

56 (C) No report shall be filed unless the same has been approved prior to the date of
57 abolishment specified in this resolution by majority vote of a quorum of the committee.
58 A report so approved shall be signed by the chairperson of the committee and filed with
59 the Secretary of the Senate.

- 60 (D) In the absence of an approved report, the chairperson may file with the Secretary
61 of the Senate copies of the minutes of the meetings of the committee in lieu thereof.
- 62 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2019.